



Global Issues

Vocabulary Long List

Topic vocabulary, useful phrases, phrasal verbs and idioms | Cambridge IGCSE ESL

<p>1 Learn by theme Study one table at a time.</p>	<p>2 Notice combinations Learn complete phrases, not isolated words.</p>	<p>3 Use the examples Adapt each sentence for speaking or writing.</p>
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Poverty and inequality

Word or phrase	Meaning	Example sentence
poverty	the state of not having enough money or resources	Poverty can affect health and education.
inequality	unfair difference in opportunity or treatment	Inequality remains a serious global issue.
basic needs	things people need to live safely	Food, water and shelter are basic needs.
living conditions	the situation in which people live	Poor living conditions can cause illness.
income gap	difference between rich and poor people's earnings	The income gap has widened in some cities.
social justice	fairness in society	Many young people campaign for social justice.
standard of living	the level of comfort, wealth and services people have	Education can improve a family's standard of living.

Education and opportunity

Word or phrase	Meaning	Example sentence
access to education	the chance to attend school and learn	Access to education can reduce poverty.
school supplies	materials needed for learning	Charities collect school supplies.
literacy	ability to read and write	Literacy improves future opportunities.
equal opportunity	a fair chance for everyone	Scholarships can support equal opportunity.
skills training	teaching practical abilities for work	Skills training helps people find employment.
barrier	something that prevents progress	Cost can be a barrier to education.
learning opportunity	a chance to gain knowledge or skills	Online lessons create learning opportunities.



GLOBAL ISSUES | CORE VOCABULARY

Charity and support

Word or phrase	Meaning	Example sentence
charity	an organisation that helps people in need	The charity supports families after disasters.
support communities	help groups of people in a practical way	Volunteers support communities after floods.
donation	money or goods given to help	A small donation can buy school materials.
fundraising	collecting money for a cause	The students organised fundraising for clean water.
volunteer work	unpaid work to help others	Volunteer work can make a real difference.
aid programme	organised help for people or places in need	The aid programme provides medicine.
community support	help given by people in a local area	Community support helped families after the flood.

Migration and refugees

Word or phrase	Meaning	Example sentence
migration	movement of people from one place to another	Migration can happen for work, safety or family.
refugee	someone forced to leave home because of danger	A refugee may need housing, food and legal support.
asylum	protection given by a country to people escaping danger	Some families apply for asylum.
settle in	become comfortable in a new place	Language classes help newcomers settle in.
host community	people living in a place that receives newcomers	The host community welcomed the families.
cultural adjustment	adapting to a different culture	Cultural adjustment takes time.
displaced person	someone forced to leave home but not necessarily their country	A displaced person may need temporary shelter.



GLOBAL ISSUES | CORE VOCABULARY

Human rights

Word or phrase	Meaning	Example sentence
human rights	basic freedoms and protections everyone should have	Human rights include safety and education.
freedom of speech	right to express opinions	Freedom of speech must be used responsibly.
child labour	work done by children that harms them or stops education	Campaigns aim to end child labour.
discrimination	unfair treatment based on identity	Laws can reduce discrimination.
fair treatment	equal and respectful treatment	Everyone deserves fair treatment.
protect vulnerable people	keep people at risk safe	Governments should protect vulnerable people.
equal rights	the same basic rights for all people	Campaigners called for equal rights.

International cooperation

Word or phrase	Meaning	Example sentence
international cooperation	countries working together	Climate change needs international cooperation.
work together	cooperate towards a shared aim	Communities must work together during emergencies.
global problem	an issue affecting many countries	Plastic pollution is a global problem.
shared responsibility	duty held by more than one person or group	Protecting the planet is a shared responsibility.
peacekeeping	action to help maintain peace	Peacekeeping can protect civilians.
global agreement	a plan accepted by many countries	A global agreement can set climate targets.
joint effort	work done together by different people or groups	Reducing pollution requires a joint effort.



GLOBAL ISSUES | CORE VOCABULARY

Health and resources

Word or phrase	Meaning	Example sentence
clean water	water that is safe to drink	Clean water prevents many diseases.
food security	reliable access to enough food	Drought can threaten food security.
healthcare access	ability to receive medical care	Healthcare access is unequal in many regions.
sanitation	systems for clean water and waste	Good sanitation protects public health.
resource shortage	lack of necessary materials or supplies	A resource shortage can raise prices.
emergency relief	immediate help after a crisis	Emergency relief arrived after the earthquake.
medical supplies	materials and equipment used for healthcare	The charity delivered medical supplies.

Awareness and action

Word or phrase	Meaning	Example sentence
raise awareness	help people know about an issue	Campaigns raise awareness of inequality.
campaign	organised action to achieve change	The campaign encouraged people to donate.
take action	do something to help solve a problem	Young people can take action locally.
long-term solution	an answer that works over time	Education is a long-term solution to poverty.
practical support	help that meets real needs	Practical support is more useful than empty promises.
make a difference	have a positive effect	Small donations can make a difference.
public campaign	organised action to influence public behaviour or opinion	A public campaign encouraged people to save water.



Phrasal verbs

Use these natural verb combinations when speaking or writing about this topic.

Word or phrase	Meaning	Example sentence
speak out	express an opinion publicly	Students spoke out against discrimination.
stand up for	defend or support	We should stand up for human rights.
reach out to	contact or offer help	Charities reach out to vulnerable people.
set up	establish	Volunteers set up a food bank.
bring about	cause to happen	Education can bring about social change.
deal with	manage or respond to	Governments deal with resource shortages.
call for	publicly ask for	Campaigners called for fair treatment.
look into	investigate	Officials looked into the complaint.
help out	give practical help	Many residents helped out after the flood.
pull together	cooperate in a difficult time	Communities pull together during crises.
cut off	stop supply or connection	Floods cut off several villages.
build up	develop gradually	Trust builds up through cooperation.

High-value collocations

reduce poverty	address inequality	meet basic needs
improve access to education	support communities	make a donation
organise fundraising	protect human rights	welcome refugees
encourage international cooperation	solve a global problem	work together
provide clean water	improve healthcare access	raise awareness
take practical action	offer emergency relief	make a difference



GLOBAL ISSUES | LANGUAGE BUILDER

Idioms and figurative expressions

Use these selectively. One natural expression is more effective than several forced into the same answer.

Word or phrase	Meaning	Example sentence
a drop in the ocean	a very small contribution to a huge need	One donation is a drop in the ocean, but it still helps.
the tip of the iceberg	a small sign of a bigger problem	The visible poverty is only the tip of the iceberg.
make ends meet	have just enough money to live	Some families struggle to make ends meet.
lend a hand	help someone	Volunteers lent a hand after the storm.
in the same boat	facing the same problem	During a crisis, many communities are in the same boat.
move mountains	make a huge effort	Charities move mountains to deliver aid.
give someone a voice	help someone be heard	The campaign gives refugees a voice.
turn the tide	change a negative situation	Education can help turn the tide against poverty.

Exam-ready language

Purpose	Useful sentence frame
Introducing a benefit	<i>One significant benefit is that...</i>
Introducing a drawback	<i>A possible drawback is that...</i>
Balancing an argument	<i>Although this offers clear advantages, it may also...</i>
Explaining a result	<i>As a result, people may...</i>
Giving an example	<i>A clear example of this can be seen when...</i>
Making a comparison	<i>Compared with..., this option is...</i>
Giving advice	<i>People can improve the situation by...</i>
Suggesting action	<i>One practical solution would be to...</i>
Expressing caution	<i>It is important to consider whether...</i>
Giving an opinion	<i>In my view, the most sensible approach is to...</i>